

POLICY 2.5: CEDAR TREE AND THE STATE

Bylaws & Board Policy Manual, Cedar Tree Classical Christian School

2.5 CEDAR TREE AND THE STATE

- *Dates:* Adopted October 3, 2002; Revised May 14, 2009; July 21, 2011
- *Objective:* To establish the relationship of Cedar Tree to governmental entities which may establish requirements or guidelines for the education of minors.
- *Scope:* This policy applies to Cedar Tree Board, administration, and staff in their capacity as leaders of the school.
- *Definitions:* Governmental entities: includes federal, state, county, and local governments.
- *Minor:* a person who has not reached the legal age of adulthood
- *Guidelines:*
 - A. We understand the Bible to teach that the parents are responsible for the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical education of their children, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Dt. 6:6-9, 11:19-21).
 - B. We recognize that the prevailing modern culture seeks to remove God from education and thus ignores Him in relation to the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of students.
 - C. We also believe that we are to submit to governing authorities so far as they do not command us to do what is contrary to God's Word (Rom. 13:1-7).
 - D. Therefore Cedar Tree, as a classical Christian school which exists to educate students in God's truth, will voluntarily comply with governmental requirements insofar as doing so will not compromise the school's mission.
 - E. The following boundary limitations are established to guard against potential compromises which in time may stem from being a state-registered private school:
 - 1. Ability to effectively and biblically fulfill Cedar Tree's mission and vision.
 - 2. Being required to teach principles or content that is non-biblical, such as secular concepts of sex education, diversity training, Darwinian evolution, etc.
 - 3. Being required to approve as truth what God's Word affirms as untruth/non-truth.

4. Being required to approve as untruth what God's Word affirms as truth.
 5. Being required to hire people whose beliefs, values, and/or practices are in conflict with our mission and standards.
 6. Being required to adhere to regulations that are unduly burdensome, such that they may materially affect our ability to fulfill our mission and vision.
- F. When state legislation is passed and enforced that qualifies as a compromise to our standards, or a majority of the Board agrees that obeying the legislation would constitute a violation of our principles as described above, we will begin the appeals process and preparation for departure from state registration, but not drop our registration status until those avenues have proved fruitless.
- G. In light of the tentative nature of Cedar Tree's participation in the state registration process, it is deemed prudent for the School to avoid entanglements (such as tax-favored status, vouchers, scholarships, etc. that depend upon state registration) which would make withdrawal from registration unacceptably difficult. If Cedar Tree does financially benefit from state registration, the Board will handle those funds in a way so as not to become dependent on them for the regular operation of the school.
- H. For the purpose of establishing an accountability network regarding state registration, the Board should ask other Christian schools within the state to keep us accountable to the limits and controls set forth in this proposal.
- I. School vouchers: Cedar Tree does not accept any certificate or voucher issued by the government intended for parents to apply toward tuition at a school other than the public school to which a child is assigned.

Cedar Tree Classical Christian School is an ACCS-accredited school in Ridgefield, Washington. Learn more at <http://www.cedartreeschool.org/>.